

## Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W

----- 040052

R 151136Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9593

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REF: A) OUAGA 1122 (NOTAL); B) OUAGA 1089

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME MAY 14, MAJOR TIENTARABOUM, MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE, REFERRED TO MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION WOULD SOON COME THROUGH WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE. HE SAID PROBLEM SO FAR HAS BEEN THAT MEDIATION COMMISSION HAS PAID MORE ATTENTION TO SABER RATTLING BY MALIAN LEADERS THAN TO PUBLIC OPINION IN BOTH COUNTRIES. HE STATED THAT AVERAGE MALIAN HAD SHOWN NO INTEREST IN BORDER DISPUTE WHEREAS IN UPPER VOLTA FEELINGS RAN VERY HIGH AGAINST ANY KIND OF COMPROMISE, ESPECIALLY AMONG MOSSIS, GOUROUNSI AND GOURMANTCHES. THERE WAS DANGER, HE THOUGHT, THAT MEDIATION COMMISSION, IN ORDER TO PLACATE MALIAN LEADERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD RECOMMEND SOLUTION WHICH WOULD GIVE SOME SATIS-

FACTION TO MALI EVEN THOUGH MALI HAD NO LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO CONTESTED AREA. IF THIS HAPPENED, POPULAR REACTION IN UPPER VOLTA WOULD BE "DISASTROUS" AND LAMIZANA REGIME WOULD BE IN REAL TROUBLE. TIENTARABOUM ADDED THAT MOSSIS WERE VERY PATIENT PEOPLE BUT, WHEN PUSHED TOO FAR THEY HAD TENDENCY TO REACT VIOLENTLY AND THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL SUCH REACTIONS IN THEIR LONG HISTORY.

2. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, TIENTARABOUM IS ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN ACTIVISTS IN MILITARY REGIME AND HE HAS CERTAINLY DONE HIS BEST TO MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF ANTI-MALIAN FEELING AMONG MOSSI POPULATION. EMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE SURPRISED THAT PRESIDENT LAMIZANA DID NOT TAKE HIM WITH HIM ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA SINCE IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT, AMONG MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY REGIME, TIENTARABOUM IS THE MOST CRITICAL OF LAMIZANA'S CONCILIATORY APPROACH TO THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTES. APPARENTLY, TIENTARABOUM WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO GO TO CANADA AS MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY, BUT HE DID NOT GET BACK ON TIME FROM A MEETING HE WAS ATTENDING IN KINSHASA.

GRAHAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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